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THE QUEEN A SUBJECT OF PERENNIAL INTEREST

The New York Evening Post, under the heading of Liliuokalani at Seventy, publishes the following story which is interesting if not wholly new:

One is apt to hear more of Liliuokalani, when she is in Washington, than of her cousin, J. Kahio Kalaniana'ole (Princee Cupid) who, as Hawaiian delegate in Congress, ranks higher than the dethroned queen in the councils of her native land. That is because the "Lily of Heaven," intentionally or otherwise, manages to keep herself in the spotlight of publicity.

When Liliuokalani arrived at San Francisco in the latter part of 1908, it was announced that she was prepar-

possessed a sugar plantation of 6000 acres in addition to smaller parcels aggregating 1000 acres and the famous Washington Place residence in Honolulu. Washington dispatches, however, declared that she had mortgaged her house to procure funds for the trip, and that her only income was an annuity of \$4000 voted by the Hawaiian Legislature. Whatever her fortune the ex-Queen, it is said, still manages to maintain the fiction of royalty.

Credited With Many Accomplishments.

Mrs. Lydia Dominis, as she is known to prosaic Americans, is credited with many accomplishments, and her writings show no illusions in that respect. In her book, "Hawaii's Story, by Hawaii's Queen," she observes: "I was a studious girl, and the acquisition of knowledge has been a passion with me

notice the fact that the Hawaiian people had no national air. Each nation but ours, he said, had its expression of patriotism and love of country in its own music; but we were using for that purpose on state occasions the time-honored British anthem, 'God Save the Queen.' This he desired me to supplant by one of my own composition.

Wrote the National Anthem.

"In one week's time I notified the King that I had completed my task. The Princess Victoria had been leader of the choir of the Kawaiahaeo church, but upon her death, May 29, 1866, I assumed the leadership. It was in this building and by that choir that I first introduced the 'Hawaiian National Anthem.' The King was present for the purpose of criticizing my new composition of both words and music, and was liberal in his commendations to me on my success. He not only admired the beauty of the music, but spoke enthusiastically of the appropriate words, so well adapted to the air and to the purpose for which they were written."

As a child Liliuokalani met her future husband, John O. Dominis, the son of an American sea captain. He attended a boys' school adjoining a sort of royal boarding institute, and it is related that the pupils were in the habit of climbing the fence to catch a glimpse of the dusky princees and princesses. Dominis married Liliuokalani in 1862, rose to be a general and Governor of Oahu, and died in 1891, some months before his Queen lost her throne.

In 1887 Liliuokalani, Dominis, Queen Kapiolani, and a retinue went to London to attend Queen Victoria's jubilee. They were well received by British royalty, but their visit was cut short by news that a revolutionary movement had manifested itself in Hawaii. By the time they reached home King Kalakaua was ready to sign what Liliuokalani describes as the "Bayonet Constitution." Finally, the King departed for the United States in search of health, leaving his sister, Liliuokalani, to occupy the position of regent. It was not a pleasant billet, owing to the unrest of the country, and matters were further complicated for the regent by news of Kalakaua's death.

"Before I had time to collect myself before my brother's remains were buried," writes the ex-Queen, "a trap was sprung upon me by those who stood waiting as a wild beast watches for his prey. The ministers, who were apparently of one mind with the justices of the Supreme Court, called together the members of the council, and, when all had taken their seats, sent for me. I turned to Gov. Dominis before entering the chamber and inquired of him, 'What is the object of this meeting?' He said that they had come together to witness my taking of the oath of office. I told him at once that I did not wish to take the oath just then, and asked why such proceedings could not be deferred until after my brother's funeral. He said that others had decided that I must take the oath then and there.

"Few persons have ever been placed without a word of warning in such a trying situation, and I doubt if there was any other woman in the city who could have borne with passable equanimity what I had to endure that day. I will scarcely limit the comparison to my sex; I doubt if many women could have passed successfully through such an ordeal. Ere I realized what was involved, I was compelled to take the oath to the Constitution, the adoption of which had led to my brother's death."

The Queen's Downfall.

The queen, in the hands of poor advisers, proved to be a reactionary. She and her friends drafted a new Constitution, which was intended to disfranchise all foreigners, who were disliked by the more ignorant class of Hawaiians. The majority of the foreigners were American planters and merchants, and they made haste to protect their interests. They formed a "committee of public safety," deposed Liliuokalani, established a provisional government, with the Stars and Stripes as its flag, and sent a commission to Washington to ask President Harrison to annex the group.

Harrison favored the plan, but went out of office before the matter had been thoroughly threshed out in the Senate. His successor, President Cleveland, took the opposite view and withdrew the United States protectorate after sending a commissioner to study the situation in the islands. Some of the imperialistic American newspapers made a great



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QUEEN LILIUOKALANI.

ing her personal memoirs for publication, and that she intended to make a tour of several American and foreign cities. In the course of time she reached Washington, with the determination, it was said, of prosecuting her claim for \$250,000 against the government for the seizure of so-called crown lands. Then came the suit of Dr. Charles L. English, who maintained that the ex-Queen broke her contract with him, after he had given up his practice in Washington to accompany her to Hawaii as private physician.

Dr. English obtained a judgment of \$11,600 by default, but last week this verdict was set aside apparently because the summons had been blown away after it had been tossed into Liliuokalani's motor car by a deputy marshal. The most imaginative press agent could hardly have conceived a more ingenious accident, and probably in future, the device will be used by persons who have no desire to appear in court. At least, they should remember it.

At the age of seventy Liliuokalani lives in an atmosphere of contradiction. One report says she is in bad health, another affirms she has found the secret of perpetual youth, and is thinking of a second venture into matrimony. Various, too, are the tales told of her wealth or lack of it. Upon her arrival at San Francisco her secretary was quoted as saying that she

during my whole life, one which has not lost its charm to the present day." That was written ten years ago. Her musical talent she describes in this manner:

"The Hawaiian people have been from time immemorial lovers of poetry and music, and have been apt in improvising historic poems, songs of love, and chants of worship, so that praises of the living or wails over the dead were with them but the natural expression of their feelings. My ancestors were peculiarly gifted in this respect, and yet it is remarkable that there are few if any written compositions of the music of Hawaii excepting those published by me.

"To compose was as natural to me as to breathe; and this gift of nature, never having been suffered to fall in to disuse, remains a source of the greatest consolation to this day. I have never yet numbered my compositions, but am sure that they must run well up to the hundreds. Of these not more than a quarter have been printed, but the most popular have been in such demand that several editions have been exhausted. Hours of which it is not yet in place to speak, which I might have found long and lonely, passed quickly and cheerfully by, occupied and soothed by the expression of my thoughts in music, and even when I was denied the aid of an instrument I could transcribe to paper the tones of my voice.

"In the early years of the reign of Kamehameha V. he brought to my

outery, the President was abused, and Queen, 'Lili,' as she was called, was held up to ridicule.

Liliuokalani was tried on charges of treason, convicted, and sentenced to pay a fine of \$5,000 and to serve five years in prison. She declared the sole purpose of the trial was to terrorize the people and to humiliate her. At all events, the sentence was not carried out, for it was apparent that Liliuokalani's cause was lost. On July 4, 1894, a republic was proclaimed, with Sanford B. Dole as President, and on July 7, 1898, the islands were annexed to the United States.

Mrs. Dominis has paid several visits to the country since that event, always having in view her claims against the government. She has apparently taken her lot with good grace, if one may judge by her first authorized interview, published in a Honolulu paper in 1906. These were her sentiments:

"The past and the monarchy are only a memory with us. We are satisfied that the country and the people will be properly cared for by the officers of that government whose keynote is 'liberty and equality.' The Hawaiians of the Islands of Hawaii are faithful to me without weakening the allegiance they and I have for the flag that has taken us all under its protection."

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